Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 PM-04 SAM-01 NSC-05 OPR-02 PA-01

PRS-01 SS-15 SY-05 A-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 USSS-00

EB-07 IO-13 NEA-10 (ISO) W

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O 250913Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3175

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 1534

FOR SVENDSEN (AF/W) FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, SL (STEVENS, PRESIDENT SIAKA P.)

SUBJECT: STEVENS VISIT TO US - EMBASSY NEED FOR CURRENT INFORMATION

REF: FREETOWN 1469

- 1. IT WOULD BE MORE THAN JUST EXTREMELY USEFUL TO EMBASSY IF YOU COULD KEEP US CURRENTLY AND REASONABLY FULLY INFORMED ON DEVELOPMENT OF PLANS FOR STEVENS VISIT AND, TO EXTENT IT KNOWN TO DEPARTMENT, HIS ONWARD TRAVEL PLANS. INTEREST IN VISIT IS HIGH HERE, AND WE ARE DAILY RECEIVING MANY QUESTIONS WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO ANSWER BUT CANNOT FOR LACK OF FIRM, AUTHORITATIVE INFORMATION.
- 2. EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT EARLY PRE-WASHINGTON PART OF STEVENS VISIT IS FOLLOWING SCHEDULE SET FORTH REFTEL. CAN YOU CONFIRM?
- 3. TYPES OF QUESTIONS WE RECEIVING RELATE NOT TO SUBSTANCE BUT TO MECHANICS AND SCHEDULE OF VISIT. WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME WHAT APPOINT-MENTS HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED FOR STEVENS WITH USG OFFICIALS AND SCHEDULED TIMING THEREOF. SIMILAR INFO ON BANK/IMF/LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IFC APPOINTMENT USEFUL BUT NOT ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL.

WE CAN EASILY DUCK QUESTIONS ON SUBSTANCE OF MEETINGS, BUT NOT TO BE ABLE RESPOND TO LEGITIMATE QUESTIONS ON THE SCHEDULE HAS BECOME SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSING.

4. OTHER AREA OF FREQUENT INQUIRY WE NEED AUTHORITATIVE INFORMATION ON IS LENGTH OF STEVENS' INTENDED STAY IN US. WE HAVE HEARD FROM SOURCES IN COMMUNITY WITH ACCESS TO WHAT WE UNDERSTAND TO BE RELIABLE INFORMATION THAT MUSEUM OF AFRICAN ART OPENING NOW SCHEDULED FOR MAY 28 INSTEAD OF JUNE 2 BUT WE UNABLE CONFIRM ON BASIS ANYTHING OFFICIAL. WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION AND ANY INFORMA-TION AVAILABLE ON EFFECT THAT CHANGE WILL HAVE ON LENGTH OF STEVENS STAY IN WASHINGTON AND IN US. WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL, IF INFORMATION AVAILABLE, TO KNOW STEVENS' ONWARD TRAVEL PLANS, PARTICULARLY ANY INFORMATION ON TIMING OF RETURN TO SIERRA LEONE. IN THIS CONNECTION, WHILE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS NOT WILLING GO FORMALLY BEYOND STATEMENT THAT STEVENS' PROPOSED VISIT TO CAIRO "IS IN SOME DOUBT," THEY HAVE TOLD SOME MEMBERS OF CORPS PRIVATELY THAT PLANS FOR UNE 9-14 VISIT DEFINITELY POSTPONED BECAUSE SADAT UNABLE RECEIVE ANY VISITORS AT THAT TIME. AM INFORMING DEPT AND EMBASSY CAIRO BY SEPTEL ON DIFFERENT SUBJECT.

8. APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE. SULLIVAN

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